

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Re application of:** Filho and Albuquerque

**Application No.** 10/767,539

**Filed:** January 29, 2004

**Confirmation No.** 5352

**For:** ASSEMBLY AND METHOD FOR  
STIFFENING A FLEXIBLE PIPE

**Examiner:** Patrick F. Brinson

**Art Unit:** 3754

**Attorney Reference No.** 7156-70278-01

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Attorney or Agent  
for Applicant(s)

Date Mailed July 19, 2005

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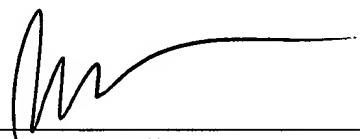
Enclosed for filing in the application referenced above are the following:

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement
  - ☒ Form 1449 and references cited thereon
  - ☒ IDS Fee of \$180.00
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit over-payment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4550. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.
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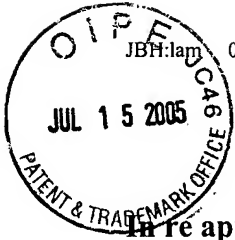
Respectfully submitted,

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cc: Docketing



JBH:lam 07/13/05 7156-70278-01 404456 WL-03-008

PATENT

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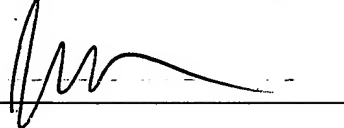
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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO**  
**37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Listed on the accompanying form PTO-1449 and enclosed herewith are several English-language documents. Applicants respectfully request that these documents be listed as references cited on the issued patent. This Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") is being mailed before Applicants received a final action, a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the referenced application.

Copies of United States patents and United States published patent applications do not have to be provided to the Patent Office (37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2)(ii)). Copies of unpublished U.S. applications do not have to be provided, as long as the application is available on PAIR, as this requirement of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(iii) has been waived by the United States Patent and Trademark Office pursuant to the Official Gazette Notice on October 19, 2004 (1287 OG 163). Applicants will provide copies of such patents or applications upon request.

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180.00 DP

Submitted herewith is a check for \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for filing this IDS in compliance with 1.97(c).

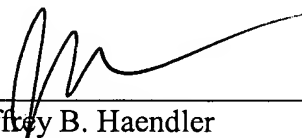
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The filing of this IDS shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, prior art or otherwise material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

Respectfully submitted,

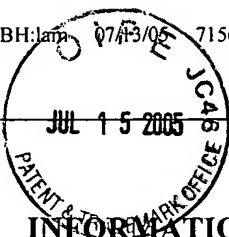
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By

  
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# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Attorney Docket Number	7156-70278-01
Application Number	10/767,539
Filing Date	January 29, 2004
First Named Inventor	Filho
Art Unit	3752
Examiner Name	Patrick F. Brinson

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Copies of U.S. Patent documents do not need to be provided, unless requested by the Patent and Trademark Office. For patents, provide the patent number and the issue date. For published U.S. applications, provide the publication number and the publication date. For unpublished pending patent applications, provide the application number and the filing date.

Examiner's Initials*	Cite No. (optional)	Number	Publication Date	Name of Applicant or Patentee
		5,526,846	06/18/1996	Maloberti et al.
		6,220,303	4/24/2001	Secher Philippe et al.

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials*	Cite No. (optional)	Country	Number	Publication Date	Name of Applicant or Patentee
		Europe	EP 0911482	04/28/1999	Deep Oil Technology, Incorporated

## OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials*	Cite No. (optional)	
		"Bend Stiffener Connector System," MIB International Ltd. website <a href="http://www.mibitaliana.it/bend.html">http://www.mibitaliana.it/bend.html</a> , 2 pages (publication date unknown).
		"OrcaBend-Bend Stiffener Optimisation Software," Orcina Limited, 4 pages (publication date unknown).
		PCT International Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/GB2005/000264.

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DATE  
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\* Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through cite if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.